

MOS TRANSISTOR HAVING A MESH-TYPE GATE ELECTRODE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 [0001] The present invention generally relates to metal-oxide-semiconductor (MOS) devices. More particularly, the present invention relates to MOS transistors having mesh-type gate electrodes.

2. Background of the Invention

10 [0002] Complimentary MOS (CMOS) technology has been gaining attention as a strong candidate for current and next generation radio-frequency (RF) applications. This is because CMOS technology is characterized by relatively low process costs, high speed performance, and easy
15 integration for SoC. For RF applications, CMOS transistors must have a large width-to-length (W/L) ratio to obtain sufficient drive power, and the CMOS transistors must further have a low gate resistance and low parasitic capacitance to operate in higher
20 frequencies. However, increasing the W/L ratio results in an increase in the gate resistance and a decrease in operation speed. As such, in an effort to increase the W/L ratios as well as lower gate resistance, a finger-type MOS transistor has been developed as shown in FIG. 1.

[0003] Referring to FIG. 1, the finger-type MOS transistor is characterized by a gate electrode 1 having a plurality of strip electrodes 1b extending between two connecting electrodes 1a. Source regions 2 and drain regions 3 are alternately arranged between the strip electrodes 1b. In the figure, W denotes the gate width, and L denotes the length of each strip electrode 1b positioned between the source and drain regions 2 and 3. Since adjacent pairs of strip electrodes 1b share a common drain region 3, each strip electrode 1b of the finger-type MOS structure has an effective gate width-to-length ratio of $2W/L$. As such, the finger-type MOS structure exhibits a reduced gate resistance.

[0004] The gate resistance of an MOS transistor can be further reduced by adopting a mesh-type structure as shown in FIGS. 2(a) and 2(b). Referring first to FIG. 2(b), the mesh-type MOS transistor structure is characterized by mesh-type gate 100 having a plurality of first strip electrodes 100a intersecting a plurality of second strip electrodes 100b to define an array of source/drain regions S, D within an active area 120. As shown, the first strip electrodes 100a terminate at one end at a common electrode 100c. In the figure, W denotes the gate width, and L denotes the length of each strip electrode 100a and 100b between source and drain regions.

The four regions directly vertically and horizontally adjacent source region S are all drain regions D, and the four regions directly vertically and horizontally adjacent the drain regions D are all source regions S.

5 Each unit area of the mesh-type MOS structure therefore has an effective gate width-to-length ratio of $4W/L$, but gate resistance is substantially maintained. Therefore, sufficient drive power is obtained along with a low gate resistance despite the increase in the W/L ratio.

10 [0005] Fig. 2(a) shows additional structural details of the mesh-type MOS transistor. In this figure, reference numbers 123 and 124 denote conductive structures which overlay the gate electrode 100 (through one or more interlayer insulating layers, not shown) and
15 which are for electrical connection to the source and drain regions, respectively, of the active area 120. Reference numbers 140 and 160 denote contact holes for connecting the source and drain regions to the conductive structures 123 and 124, respectively.

20 [0006] FIG. 2(c) is a cross-sectional view of a unit area of the mesh-type MOS transistor taken along line I-I' of FIG. 2(b). As shown, a gate oxide 101 is interposed between the gate 100 and active region 120 of the silicon substrate. Source and drain regions S and D
25 are defined on opposite sides of the gate 100.

[0007] As suggested above, the gate resistance of the mesh-typed CMOS layout is significantly less than that of the finger-typed CMOS layout ($4W/L$ vs. $2W/L$) because of the number of alternate parallel paths at any given point in the mesh-typed structure. Disadvantageously, however the gate capacitance of the mesh-typed CMOS layout is larger than that of the finger-typed layout. As shown in Fig. 2(b), the vertical and horizontal stripe electrodes 100a and 100b intersect with one another to define a plurality of intersecting gate regions. Each of the intersecting gate regions creates a parasitic capacitance at the gate. When the transistor is turned on, current flows from each source region S to each drain region D through channels beneath the stripe electrodes 100a and 100b. On the other hand, current does not flow in the active area beneath the intersecting gate regions of the gate 100. Nevertheless, a thin gate oxide layer is present between the gate intersecting regions and the active area, and these regions thus contribute to presence of parasitic capacitance at the gate.

[0008] In the conventional mesh-typed CMOS layout exhibits a small gate resistance. However, the gate capacitance is relatively large, which makes it difficult to achieve a high power gain.

[0009] Also, while the gate resistance of the mesh-type CMOS transistor is relatively small, it would be desirable to even further reduce the resistive characteristics of the mesh-type gate MOS transistor.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] According to one aspect of the present invention, a semiconductor device is provided which includes a substrate; a gate electrode located over a surface of the substrate and comprising at least first and second elongate wirings which intersect at an intersection region of the gate electrode; a gate dielectric layer interposed between the gate electrode and the surface of the substrate; and at least one oxide region located in the substrate below the intersection region of the gate electrode.

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[0011] According to another aspect of the present invention, a semiconductor device is provided which includes a substrate; a mesh-shaped gate electrode located over a surface of the substrate and having a plurality of openings aligned over respective source/drain regions of the substrate; a gate dielectric layer interposed between the mesh-shaped gate electrode and the surface of the substrate; and at least one oxide

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region located in the substrate below the mesh-shaped gate electrode.

[0012] According to yet another aspect of the present invention, a semiconductor device is provided which

5 includes a substrate; a mesh-shaped gate electrode located over a surface of the substrate, the mesh-shaped gate electrode having a plurality of openings aligned over respective source/drain regions of the substrate, and defining an array of gate intersection regions over
10 the surface of the substrate and an array of source/drain regions of the substrate; a gate dielectric layer interposed between the mesh-shaped gate electrode and the surface of the substrate; and an array of oxide regions located in the substrate below the below the array of
15 gate intersection regions, respectively; a dielectric layer formed over the semiconductor substrate and the mesh-shaped gate electrode; a plurality of elongate first electrodes located over said dielectric layer and extending parallel to each other and diagonally over said
20 array of source/drain regions; a second dielectric layer formed over said first dielectric layer and said first electrodes; a plurality of elongate second electrodes located over said dielectric layer and extending parallel to each other and diagonally over said array of
25 source/drain regions; wherein said first electrodes are

electrically connected through said first dielectric layer to either source or drain regions among said array of source/drain regions, and wherein said second electrodes are electrically connected through said first and second dielectric layers to the other of source or drain regions among said array of source/drain regions.

[0013] According to another aspect of the present invention, a semiconductor device is provided which includes a substrate; a mesh-shaped gate electrode located over a surface of the substrate, the mesh-shaped gate electrode having a plurality of openings aligned over respective source/drain regions of the substrate; a gate dielectric layer interposed between the mesh-shaped gate electrode and the surface of the substrate; at least one oxide region located in the substrate below the mesh-shaped gate electrode; a dielectric layer formed over the semiconductor substrate and the mesh-shaped gate electrode; a plurality of elongate drain electrodes located over the dielectric layer and extending parallel to each other and diagonally over said array of source/drain regions; and a plurality of elongate source electrodes located over said dielectric layer and extending parallel to each other and diagonally over said array of source/drain regions; and wherein source

electrodes and said drain electrodes are alternately arranged over said dielectric layer.

[0014] According to yet another aspect of the present invention, a semiconductor device is provided which includes a substrate; a first mesh-shaped electrode located over a surface of the substrate, the mesh-shaped electrode having a plurality of openings aligned over respective source/drain regions of the substrate; a dielectric layer interposed between the first mesh-shaped electrode and the surface of the substrate; a first dielectric layer formed over the first mesh-shaped electrode; a second mesh-shaped electrode located over said first dielectric layer;; a second dielectric layer formed over the first mesh-shaped electrode; and a third mesh-shaped electrode located over said second dielectric layer.

[0015] According to another aspect of the present invention, a semiconductor device is provided which includes a substrate having an array of source/drain regions defined therein; a mesh-shaped gate electrode located over a surface of the substrate, the mesh-shaped gate electrode having a plurality of openings aligned over respective source/drain regions of the array of source/drains region; and a gate dielectric layer interposed between the mesh-shaped gate electrode and the

surface of the substrate; and at least one oxide region located in the substrate below the mesh-shaped gate electrode; wherein the mesh-shaped gate electrode comprises a plurality of first elongate wirings extending parallel to one another, a plurality of second elongate wirings extending parallel to one another, and a common wiring extending along at least one side of the array of source/drain regions.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] The various aspects and features of the present invention will become readily apparent from the detailed description that follows, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

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[0017] FIG. 1 is a schematic view of a conventional MOS transistor having a finger-type gate electrode;

[0018] FIGS. 2(a) through 2(c) are schematic views of a conventional MOS transistor having a mesh-type gate electrode;

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[0019] FIGS. 3(a) through 3(c) are schematic views of an MOS transistor having a mesh-type gate electrode according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0020] FIGS. 4(a) and 4(b) are schematic views of an MOS transistor having a mesh-type gate electrode

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according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0021] FIGS. 5(a) and 5(b) are schematic views of an MOS transistor having a mesh-type gate electrode according to yet another embodiment of the present invention;

5 [0022] FIGS. 6(a) through 6(d) are schematic views of source and drain electrodes of a mesh-type gate MOS transistor according to an embodiment of the present invention;

10 [0023] FIG. 7(a) through 7(c) are schematic views of source and drain electrodes of a mesh-type gate MOS transistor according to another embodiment of the present invention; and

[0024] FIGS. 8(a) and 8(b) are schematic views of gate electrodes of a mesh-type gate MOS transistor
15 according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0025] The present invention will be described in detail below by way of several non-limiting preferred
20 embodiments.

[0026] Certain aspects of the invention are at least partially characterized by the formation of an oxide region below a portion of the gate of an MOS transistor, particularly a mesh-type gate MOS transistor. The oxide
25 region functions to increase an overall dielectric

thickness at the portion of the gate, which in turn reduces a gate capacitance of the MOS transistor.

[0027] Other aspects of the present invention are at least partially characterized in the configuration of the source, drain and/or gate electrodes so as to minimize an overall contact resistance of a mesh-gate type MOS transistor.

[0028] A first embodiment of the present invention is schematically illustrated in FIGS. 3(a) through 3(c).

Referring first to FIG. 3(b), an active area 320 of a semiconductor substrate includes an array of oxide regions 340. Each oxide region 340 occupies a two-dimensional surface region of the active area 320 and extends to a given depth within the substrate. The given depth is thicker than a thickness of a gate dielectric (described later). Although the invention is not so limited, the oxide regions of the disclosed embodiments are implemented as field oxides regions having, for example, a depth of at least 1000 Å.

[0029] Referring next to FIG. 3(a), a mesh-type gate 300 is positioned over the active area 320. The mesh-type gate 300 includes a plurality of first strip electrodes 300a intersecting a plurality of second strip electrodes 300b to define an array of source/drain regions S,D within the active area 320. Also, in this

embodiment, the first strip electrodes 300a terminate at one end at a common electrode 300c which is located outside the active area 320.

As shown, the intersecting portions 380 of the first and second stripe electrode 300a and 300b overlap the field oxide regions 340, respectively. The four regions directly vertically and horizontally adjacent each source region S are all drain regions D, and the four regions directly vertically and horizontally adjacent each drain region D are all source regions S. Each unit area of the mesh-type MOS structure therefore has an effective gate width-to-length ratio of $4W/L$, but gate resistance is substantially maintained. Therefore, sufficient drive power is obtained along with a low gate resistance despite the increase in the W/L ratio.

[0030] Further, due to the presence of the field oxide regions 340, the embodiment of FIGS. 3(a) through 3(b) exhibits a significantly reduced gate capacitance when compared with the conventional mesh-type MOS transistor. This can be seen from the cross-sectional view of FIG. 3(c) which is taken along line II-II' of FIG. 3(a). The combination of the gate oxide 360 and the field oxide 340 results in an overall dielectric thickness which is substantially greater than the conventional device having the gate oxide only.

[0031] As a result, the mesh-type MOS transistor of this embodiment exhibits both a low gate resistance and a low gate capacitance.

[0032] FIGS. 4(a) and 4(b) illustrate another embodiment of the present invention. Referring first to FIG. 4(a), this embodiment is characterized by the formation of elongate field oxide regions 440 in the active region 420 of a semiconductor substrate. As shown in FIG. 4(b), the field oxide regions 440 underlay the strip electrodes 400a of the gate 400. Alternately, the field oxide regions 440 may underlay the strip electrodes 400b of the gate 400.

[0033] As with the first embodiment, the configuration of FIGS. 4(a) and 4(b) exhibits an increased overall dielectric thickness resulting from the presence of the field oxide regions 440 underlying the strip electrodes 400a or 400b. As a result, the gate capacitance is advantageously reduced.

[0034] FIGS. 5(a) and 5(b) illustrate yet another embodiment of the invention. Referring first to FIG. 5(a), this embodiment is characterized by the formation of elongate active regions 520 in the field region 540 of a semiconductor substrate. Referring to FIG. 5(b), the active regions 520 are respectively aligned between the strip electrodes 500a of the gate 500. Alternately, the

active regions 520 may be respectively aligned between the strip electrodes 500b of the gate 500.

[0035] As with the previous embodiments, the configuration of FIGS. 5(a) and 5(b) exhibits an increased overall dielectric thickness resulting from the presence of the field oxide region 540 underlying the strip electrodes 500a or 500b. As a result, the gate capacitance is advantageously reduced.

[0036] As described above, the gate capacitance of the mesh-type MOS transistor may be reduced by placing one or more field oxide regions below selected portions of the mesh-type gate.

[0037] Further improvements in the mesh-type MOS transistor, particularly the gate/source/drain electrode configurations, will now be described.

[0038] FIGS. 6(a) through 6(c) illustrate another embodiment of the present invention. Referring first to FIGS. 6(a), a source metal plate (electrode) 660 is located over a mesh-type gate 600. For example, the mesh-type gate and underlying structure may optionally be the same as that of the embodiment of FIGS. 3(a) through 5(b). The source electrode 660 is defined by a plurality of elongate strip electrodes 661a which extend diagonally over the source regions 640 among the active region 620 of the mesh-type gate MOS transistor. The strip

electrodes 661a are connected at one end to a common electrode 661b.

[0039] Referring next to FIG. 6(b), a drain electrode 680 is also located over the mesh-type gate 600. The drain electrode 680 is defined by a plurality of elongate strip electrodes 681a which extend diagonally over and are connected to the drain regions 650 among the active region 620 of the MOS transistor. As shown, the strip electrodes 681a of the drain electrode 680 are parallel to and alternately arranged between the strip electrodes 661a of the source electrode 660. Also, the strip electrodes 681a are connected at one end to a common electrode 681b.

[0040] In FIGS. 6(a) and 6(b), the strip electrodes 661a and 681a are shown as extending diagonally relative to the underlying strip electrodes of the mesh-type gate. While this is preferable for optimal connection to the source and drain regions, it is also possible to extend the strip electrodes 661a and/or 681a in a direction parallel to the underlying strip electrodes of the mesh-type gate.

[0041] Preferably, each of the common electrodes 661b and 681b are L-shaped and substantially extend along the periphery of two-sides of the active region 620. In this manner, the metal area of the electrodes is increased,

which in turn reduces the overall source and drain contact resistance.

[0042] In this embodiment, the source electrode 660 and drain electrode 680 are coplanar as shown in FIG.

5 6(c), which is a cross-sectional view taken along line III-III' of FIG. 6(b). That is, the source and drain electrodes 660, 680 are formed on a same interlayer dielectric layer 630. Each source region S is connected to the source electrode 660 by a contact hole 662

10 extending through the interlayer dielectric layer 630. Likewise, each drain region D is connected to the drain electrode 680 by a contact hole 682 extending through the interlayer dielectric layer 630. Since the source and drain electrodes are located on the same interlayer dielectric layer, they can be simultaneously formed, for
15 example, using conventional photolithography techniques.

[0043] In an alternative embodiment, the source electrode 660 and the drain electrode 680 lie in different planes as shown in cross-sectional view of FIG.

20 6(d). In this case, the drain electrode 680 is formed on a first interlayer dielectric layer 630, and the source electrode is formed on a second interlayer dielectric layer 670. Each source region S is connected to the source electrode 660 by a contact hole 664 extending

25 through the first and second interlayer dielectric layers

630, 650. Likewise, each drain region D is connected to the drain electrode 680 by a contact hole 682 extending through the first interlayer dielectric layer 630.

[0044] In the case of FIG. 6(d), the elongate strip electrode 661a of the source electrode 660 need not run parallel to the elongate strip electrodes 681a of the drain electrode 680 as shown in FIG. 6(b). Rather, for example, the strip electrodes 661a of the source electrode 660 can run perpendicularly to the strip electrodes 681a of the drain electrode 680.

[0045] As mentioned above, the overall source and drain contact resistance can be reduced by the formation of the L-shaped common electrodes 661c and 681c. This resistance can be further reduced by adopting the embodiment shown in FIGS. 7(a) through 7(c). Referring first to FIG. 7(a), a source metal plate (electrode) 760 is located over a mesh-type gate 700. For example, the mesh-type gate 700 and underlying structure are optionally the same as those of the embodiment of FIGS. 1(a) through 1(c). The source electrode 760 is defined by a first plurality of elongate strip electrodes 761a which extend diagonally over the source regions of the MOS transistor. The strip electrodes 761a are connected at one end to a common L-shaped electrode 761b. The source electrode 760 is further defined by a second

plurality of elongate strip electrodes 761c also extend diagonally over the source regions but at substantial right angles to the first strip electrodes 761a.

[0046] The drain electrode is similarly configured.

5 That is, referring to FIG. 7(b), a drain metal plate (electrode) 780 is located over the source electrode 760.

The drain electrode 780 is defined by a first plurality of elongate strip electrodes 781a which extend diagonally over the drain regions of the MOS transistor. The strip
10 electrodes 781a are connected at one end to a common L-shaped electrode 781b. The drain electrode 780 is further defined by a second plurality of elongate strip electrodes 781c which also extend diagonally over the drain regions but at right angles to the first strip
15 electrodes 781a.

[0047] FIG. 7(c) is a cross-sectional view taken along line IV-IV' of FIG. 7(c). The source electrode 760 is formed on a first interlayer dielectric layer 730, and the drain electrode 780 is formed on a second interlayer
20 dielectric layer 770. Each source region S is connected to the source electrode 760 by a contact hole 764 extending through the first and second interlayer dielectric layers 730, 770. Likewise, each drain region D is connected to the drain electrode 780 by a contact

hole 782 extending through the first interlayer dielectric layer 730.

[0048] Still further improvements in the mesh-type MOS transistor, particularly the gate electrode structure, will now be described.

[0049] FIG. 8(a) schematically illustrates a mesh-type gate electrode according to an embodiment of the invention. The mesh-type gate includes a plurality of first strip electrodes 800a intersecting a plurality of second strip electrodes 800b to define an array of source/drain regions over an active area of a semiconductor substrate. As shown, the first strip electrodes 800a terminate at one end at one side of the common L-shaped electrode 800c, and the second strip electrodes 800b terminate at one end at another side of a common L-shaped electrode 800c. Each side of the L-shaped common electrode 800c is connected to an upper layer metal wiring 804 via one or more contact holes 803.

[0050] An alternative mesh-type gate electrode according to an embodiment of the present invention is shown in FIG. 8(b). In this case, the common electrode 800c extends along all four sides of the active area. That is, the first strip electrodes 800a terminate at both ends at opposite sides of the common electrode 800c, and the second strip electrodes 800b terminate at both

ends at other opposite sides of the common electrode 800c. Again, each side of the common electrode 800c is connected to an upper layer metal wiring 804 via one or more contact holes 803.

5 [0051] Since the mesh-type gate is connected at multiple and distributed points to the metal wiring, the embodiments of FIGS. 8(a) and 8(b) favorably exhibit a reduce contact resistance at the gate electrode.

10 [0052] In the drawings and specification, there have been disclosed typical preferred embodiments of this invention and, although specific examples are set forth, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation. It should therefore be understood the scope of the present invention is to be
15 construed by the appended claims, and not by the exemplary embodiments.